HASSAN JEANNE M 06/20/81 112512 PRINTER: LI
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ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3273
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
R/AMEMBASSY NASSAU 2210
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT
C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4359
E.O. 12065: GDS 6/12/86 (LAWRENCE, L) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER REINSTATED, GOVERNING PARTY COUNTERATTACKS
REF: (A) KINGSTON 4038, (B) KINGSTON 3985

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 25 JUN 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. (C) SUMMARY: FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S NON-TRIUMPHANT RETURN FROM HIS TRIP TO TRIPOLI/LONDON/NEW YORK (SOCIALIST LEADER BRANDT APPARENTLY REFUSED TO SEE HIM AND IF HE GOT ANY LOANS FROM ARAB STATES HE HAS BEEN QUIET ABOUT THEM), THE GOVERNING PEOPLES NATIONAL PARTY HAS AROUSED ITSELF AND COUNTERATTACKED AGAINST SEVERAL WEEKS OF SUCCESSFUL ASSAULTS BY THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY. NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON HAS BEEN REINSTATED IN HIS JOB, THE POLICE FEDERATION HAS BEEN ATTACKED, A CENSURE MOTION HAS BEEN LAID DOWN AGAINST OPPOSITION LEADER SEAGA, AND MANLEY HAS HELD A BIG AND APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL RALLY.

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PAGE 02 KINGST 04359 150813Z

END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ERSTWHILE SECURITY MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON HAD HIS "DUTIES" AS MINISTER SUSPENDED ALTHOUGH HE RETAINED HIS SEAT IN PARLIAMENT WHILE THE LEGALITIES OF HIS 1978 ELECTION WERE LOOKED INTO (SEE REFTEL (A). THE SUPREME COURT HAD ANNOUNCED MAY 30 THAT THE PROCEEDINGS BY WHICH THOMPSON WAS NOMINATED IN 1978 WERE ILLEGAL AND THUS NULL AND VOID. NOW, MANLEY HAS ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT JUNE 10 THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT ALTHOUGH THOMPSON'S NOMINATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN ILLEGAL, THE COURT SAID NOTHING ABOUT HIS ELECTION. THEREFORE, MANLEY ANNOUNCED, THOMPSON HAS BEEN FULLY REINSTATED. THERE HAS BEEN, OF COURSE, AN IMMIEDIATE HOWL FROM THE OPPOSITION AND THE GLEANER THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS TRAMPLING UPON THE LAWS, ETC. MEAN-

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WHILE THOMPSON ENJOYS AT LEAST A MOMENTARY TRIUMPH.

3. (U) THE PNP AND ALLIED GROUPS HAVE ALSO RALLIED AROUND THOMPSON IN HIS FRACAS WITH THE HEAD OF THE POLICE FEDERATION (REFEL (B), INSPECTOR MCBETH, WHO HAD DEMANDED THOMPSON'S RESIGNATION BECAUSE OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN POLICE OPERATIONS (REF B). THE PNP WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION, THE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN FOR PROGRESS, THE PNP YOUTH ORGANIZATION, THE WORKERS PARTY OF JAMAICA, AND ABOUT HALF A DOZEN OTHER ALLIED LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS WERE QUICK TO ATTACK MCBETH'S STATEMENT. THEN THE THEN ACTING PM, P.J. PATTERSON, ON JUNE 2 ALSO ATTACKED MCBETH'S ACTION AS IMPROPER AND ILLEGAL. THOMPSON HIMSELF IN THE LAST TWO PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS HAS GIVEN AN ELABORATE DEFENSE OF HIS RECORD AS NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER AND CALLED ON MCBETH TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE WHICH MCBETH DECLINED TO DO AT THIS TIME. WE HAVE HEARD FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST MCBETH FOR VIOLATING HIS OATH INTER ALIA. ON THIS ISSUE PUBLIC OPINION SEEMS TO BE SWINGING BACK

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A BIT IN FAVOR OF THOMPSON, BUT NOT VERY FAR.

4. (U) THE GOVERMENT, WITH ITS RUBBER-STAMP MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT, HAS NOT PASSED A CENSURE MOTION AGAINST THE OPPOSITION LEADER SINCE LATE LAST YEAR. THIS OMISSION WAS IN TRAIN TO BE RECTIFIED AT THE JUNE 10 SESSION WHEN TWO MOTIONS WERE TABLED TO CENSURE SEAGA FOR ALLEGED "DOCTORING" OF THE TEXT OF A MANLEY SPEECH WHICH SEAGA QUOTED IN THE BUDGET DEBATE, AND ALSO TO CENSURE HIM FOR OTHER REMARKS HE MADE ABOUT INTIMIDATION OF ELECTORS. THE CENSURE MOTIONS WILL BE DEBATED AND, PRESUMABLY, PASSED NEXT WEEK.

5. (U) AS PART OF A CAMPAIGN TO WIN BACK THE POLITICAL INITIATIVE THE PNP HELD A BIG RALLY AT HALFWAY TREE SQUARE IN KINGSTON JUNE 11 TO INTRODUCE THEIR CANDIDATES FOR THE KINGSTON CORPORATE AREA. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED FULL REPORTS ON THIS AFFAIR, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE GONE OFF SUCCESSFULLY, GIVING THE IMPRESSION OF PARTY ENTHUSIASM.

6. (C) COMMENT: THE POLITICAL PROFESSIONALISM OF THE PNP IS FINALLY BEGINNING TO SHOW ITS TEETH, AND THIS WEEK WE HAVE SEEN THE JLP ELECTORAL DRIVE SLOWED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY WEEKS. THE SERIOUS ASSAULT ON THE PNP'S CHARIMAN, DUDLEY THOMPSON, HAS BEEN THROWN ASIDE SUCCESSFULLY, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, THOUGH THOMPSON'S ALREADY TRANISHED IMAGE HAS NOT BEEN EXACTLY BURNISHED BY THIS AFFAIR, PARTICULARLY HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE POLICE FEDERATION. WE CAN, OF COURSE, EXPECT AN EARLY RIPOSTE FROM SEAGA. THE CAMPAIGN IS WELL UNDERWAY.

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